[26th February 1929

A.—(*a*) The hon. Member is referred to the answer given to question No. 1507 asked by Mr. J. A. Saldanha.

(*b*) & (*c*) The Government propose to await the results of the investigations by the Forest Research Institute, Dehra Dun, before taking any steps in the matter.

Development of the silk industry in Nugur taluk.

*1509 *Q.*—Mr. K. V. R. Swami: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state whether the Government are giving any and, if so, what aid to the development of the silk industry in Nugur taluk?

A.—The Government are not giving any aid at present.

Veterinary

Muslim representation in the cadre of veterinary assistant surgeons.

*1510 *Q.*—Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed: Will the hon. the Minister for Development be pleased to state—

(*a*) the total number of veterinary assistant surgeons both in the ordinary and in the selection grades and how many of them are Muslims in each grade;

(*b*) whether there are any Muslim circle officers in the Civil Veterinary Department and if so, how many, out of what total number;

(*c*) if the answer to (*b*) is in the negative, what steps he proposes to take to have this community represented in the cadre; and

(*d*) whether there is any proposal to appoint more circle officers and if so, when the appointments will be made and how many?

A.—(*a*) There are 218 veterinary assistant surgeons in the ordinary grade and 24 in the selection grade. There are 10 Muslims in the ordinary grade and none in the selection grade.

(*b*) There are no Muslim circle officers in the Civil Veterinary Department.

(*c*) The Government do not propose to take any special steps as the adequate representation of all communities compatible with efficiency will be taken into consideration when appointments of circle officers are made.

(*d*) It is proposed to appoint five additional circle officers during the next official year.

Mr. Basheer Ahmad Sayeed:—"May I know whether the Government propose to remove the disproportion of Muslims among the veterinary assistant surgeons?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"As far as practicable, Sir."

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"May I know whether the Government are likely to appoint additional circle officers?"

The hon. Mr. M. R. Seturatnam Ayyar:—"The matter will be communicated to the department?"

Mr. Abdul Hameed Khan:—"Will the Government make a distinction in the selection of assistant surgeons in favour of Muslims?"